

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: January 20, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
 From: Victoria Henkel, Permit Technician
 Subject: Design Review/Tree Board Interviews

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The item is to request that the Council conduct interviews for the three open positions on the Design Review/Tree Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:*DESIGN REVIEW/TREE BOARD – 2 YEAR TERM*

The Design Review Board meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Sebastopol Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA. Appointments are for two years, and the term ending date for the current vacancies is December 31, 2027.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Municipal Code Chapter 2.32, Design Review Board states for Members and Terms as follows:

The Board shall consist of five members or such other number as the City Council shall, from time to time, determine by resolution, but in no event less than five members. The Board members shall serve a term of two years or until their successors are appointed. Initially, three members of the Board shall be appointed for two years, and two members shall be appointed for one year. Thereafter, the terms shall be staggered in accordance with their expiration dates. In making the appointments, the City Council shall select, insofar as possible, the following:

- A. Two persons, at least one of whom shall be a licensed architect and at least one of whom shall be a licensed landscape architect.
- B. One person who may be any of the following: architect, landscape architect, building designer, building contractor, landscape contractor.
- C. Two persons not in subsection A or B of this section.
- D. One alternate who may be in subsection A of this section or who possesses a particular expertise in the area of design, land use patterns, urban development or other related fields to serve at any meeting or on any matter in the absence of a Board member, or in the event a member has a conflict of interest.
- E. In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion. All terms of office shall terminate December 31st of the last year of the term of appointment.

The current Design Review Board members are listed below (vacancies are highlighted)

MEMBERS	TERM ENDING DATE	CATEGORY
Lars Langberg, Chair	12/31/2025	Category A
Melissa Hanley, Vice-Chair	12/31/2025	Category C
Christine Level	12/31/2025	Category C
Lynn Deedler	12/31/2026	Category B
Christian Macke	12/31/2026	Category A
Marshall Balfe (Alternate)	12/31/2026	Category D

The City Council received applications from the following individuals for the three openings on the Design Review/Tree Board.

APPLICATIONS	CATEGORY
Lars Langberg	Category A
Melissa Hanley	Category C
Blake McDowall	Category C
Dustin Deason	Category B

Please note: An applicant has applied for Category B. There is currently no vacancy for Category B. There are openings for Categories A and C. Per the Sebastopol Municipal Code Chapter 2.32.020 (E), if suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion.

Interviews for the applicants are scheduled as follows:

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD INTERVIEW:

Design Review Board (Three Seats Open)

The following interviews will start at 6:00 pm:

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Category:</u>
Lars Langberg	Category A
Melissa Hanley	Category C
Blake McDowall	Category C
Dustin Deason	Category B

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The City received four applications within the time period for the three openings. This item is for the Council to conduct interviews for the three vacancies on the Design Review Board.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to scheduled meeting date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:

1. Conduct interviews with the four applicants

OPTIONS:

None. Consideration of appointments will be considered later in the agenda.

ATTACHMENTS:

Applications (redacted)

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: 1/13/26
 CEQA Determination (Planning): 1/5/2026

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: 1/13/2026

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget: Yes No N/A

Account Code (if applicable) _____

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: N/A

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 1/13/2026

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- A. Two persons, at least one of whom shall be a licensed architect and at least one of whom shall be a licensed landscape architect.
- B. One person who may be any of the following: architect, landscape architect, building designer, building contractor, landscape contractor.
- C. Two persons not in subsection A or B of this section.
- D. One alternate who may be in subsection A of this section or who possesses a particular expertise in the area of design, land use patterns, urban development or other related fields to serve at any meeting or on any matter in the absence of a Board member, or in the event a member has a conflict of interest.
- E. In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion. All terms of office shall terminate December 31st of the last year of the term of appointment.

Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)

A
 B
 C
 D

Name: LARS LANGBERG

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Work Phone Number: 707-823-9899

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Facsimile Number: _____

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

E-Mail Address: lars@larrach-test.com

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the

public?

Yes

No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes

No

If so, for how long? 9 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes

No

If so, for how long? 17 years

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

I was an applicant on 8/19/25

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes

No

If so, when? Served the past 7 1/2 years

Present Employer: _____

Job Title: principal owner

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Member, Cotati Design Review Committee - 6 years
Member, Sebastopol Public Art Committee - about 6 years
Member, current chair, Sebastopol DRB - 7½ years

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

The Core Project

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

Founding member, steering committee, 2010-2019

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Mostly, 30+ years working as an architect, 22 years in Sonoma County, 17 years at my storefront office in downtown Sebastopol. I've collaborated with many local design professionals, work with local artists to display art. Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject my office studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Washington U., St. Louis, Mo - B.A., major in Architecture
JCI-Arc, LA - M.Arch

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Fellow, Leadership Institute (Daily Act)
Green Bay Professional, Sonoma State
Sob. Chamber of Commerce ~ Core Project
Best Architect Soc. ty - N. Bay Bohemian - 5 years

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

As a current member & current chair of the board, I would like to continue the good work of the group. This includes supporting the efforts to update the tree & sign ordinances, help to welcome a new Planning Director, & support the efforts of the City and city staff to make downtown a more pedestrian friendly core of our town

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

Current board member

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

No

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

My experience on the Board, & as Board chair is the main thing. But I feel my welcoming & comfortable attitude has been an important part of my success in this role. Good communication, clear facilitation, willingness to speak my mind

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Providing a better balance between pedestrian & bicycle friendly design, & that of the car. And continuing to advocate for creative ways for more housing - urban, multi-story, denser solutions to encourage a lively downtown

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Besides the usual emails & speaking in reaction to projects, we should expand the use of Preliminary Design Review, to look at projects before they're so finished. If the Board does that, people could feel more engaged in what the town looks like.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

We have the meeting protocol, Robert Rule, that keeps that in check. And my experience is there is plenty of opportunity for different opinions without getting nasty. But if that happened, I would address it with City Staff, & the Council, to see how we can mediate the situation.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

First of all, our duty on the board is to judge a project based on whether it meets the city development standards & design guidelines. If the project does, but I still see that it could be better, I won't hesitate to state why I think so. Making constructively critical comments are an important part of the public process, regardless of the outcome. And I am always willing to politely criticize City staff if I feel they aren't providing the best judgment, or vision, for the good of the City.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : Lars Langberg

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): LARS LANGBERG

Date: 9 December 2025

The Board shall consist of five members and the City Council shall select, if possible, the following:

A. Two persons, at least one of whom shall be a licensed architect and at least one of whom shall be a licensed landscape architect.

B. One person who may be any of the following: architect, landscape architect, building designer, building contractor, landscape contractor.

C. Two persons not in subsection A or B of this section.

D. One alternate who may be in subsection A of this section or who possesses a particular expertise in the area of design, land use patterns, urban development or other related fields to serve at any meeting or on any matter in the absence of a Board member, or in the event a member has a conflict of interest.

E. In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion. All terms of office shall terminate December 31st of the last year of the term of appointment.

Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)

A

B

C

D

Name: Melissa Hanley

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Work Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Facsimile Number: N/A

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the

public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? 11 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? _____

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Yes. I have been a member of the DRB since 2022.

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes No

If so, when? Yes. I have been a member of the DRB since 2022.

Present Employer:  _____

Job Title: Co-Founder and Architect

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Yes. I have been a member of the Sebastopol DRB since 2022.

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

American Institute of Architects (AIA), International Institute of Interior Designers, American Society of Interior Designers

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

Yes. AIA Board of Directors, Dir. of Chapter Affairs 2008-2012

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

As an architect, business owner and 6th generation Sebastopol local I can bring a unique blend of strong Sebastopol roots paired with modern economic insights. I established my firm with my now husband in 2009 and have grown it into a thriving concern with two locations, having won over 150 design awards and having been published in over 500 periodicals both domestic and international. My portfolio includes over 5 million square feet of built work in the Bay Area with another 1 million SF built in the greater Los Angeles metro and several built projects across Canada, the UK, China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia. I have been named in the SF Business Times top 50 under 50 and lectured across the US on issues of design, women in design and business and the future of work in a post-pandemic world. I also make a very good grilled cheese sandwich.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

University of California, Berkeley 2006
BA Architecture
Minor City and Regional Planning

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Professional Awards

2024 IIDA National Design Award Juror
2019 ASID Women In Design Honoree
2018 SF Business Times 50 under 50
2018 IIDA National Leader in Design Honoree
2017 Leadership San Francisco
Architect's Newspaper Top 50 Firms

Full list of design awards and publications available upon request.

Design Awards (last five years only)

- Confidential Venture Capital Firm / IIDA NorCal Honor Award Winner, Work Medium (2025)
- Poms & Associates LABJ Inside the Valley, Best New Headquarters (2024)
- L'Oréal West Coast HQ ASID Focus Award, Diversity (2024)
- L'Oréal West Coast HQ IIDA NorCal Honor Awards Winner, Work Large (2023)
- L'Oréal West Coast HQ IIDA SoCal Calibre Winner, Work Large & People's Choice (2023)
- Verizon Yahoo! Interior Design Magazine Best of Year Honoree (2022)
- Lucid Studio Fashion SQ IIDA NorCal Honor Awards Finalist (2022)
- Saatchi & Saatchi IIDA NorCal Honor Awards Finalist (2022)
- Astrazeneca IIDA NorCal Honoree, Heal + Long View (2021)
- ABP Capital IIDA NorCal Honor Awards Winner (2020)

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I am thrilled to be considered for this post. I am 6th generation Sebastopol native and my husband and I moved back to Sebastopol in 2014 as soon as finances would allow. We love it here and, while our business takes us to places all over the world, coming 'home' always means being here. We've recently welcomed our first child and are even more motivated to contribute where we can towards making Sebastopol a wonderful place for our daughter to grow up. I am particularly driven to create housing options for people who, like me, who grew up here but now find themselves priced out of the market as adults. I hate seeing my peers leave the town (and often the state!) for cheaper options that better support their financial goals. Sebastopol is a very special place and part of what makes it so special is the generations-deep commitment to the area and to the community. I want to work to make it possible for my peers to come back home and contribute to the next generation of Sebastopol. I've enjoyed my time on the DRB over the last several years and would love to continue contributing to the community.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

I am a current DRB member.

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

My husband and I are passionate about renewable energy. We have invested in solar and batteries for our home along with electrical vehicles and are evangelists for 'the electric life'.

We are (slowly) converting the family farm on Ferguson Rd to a hop farm from Christmas trees and are thrilled to have our hops in seasonal beers at Crooked Goat. Our connection to the agrarian part of Sonoma County is a wonderful counterpoint to the hustle and bustle of our corporate lives.

We love living on Florence Ave. We routinely describe ourselves as 'the Godzilla house'. We bought the house in 2017 and have finished a substantial renovation (apologies to our long-suffering neighbors). We love the property specifically because we were able to convert a garage to an ADU in the back for my mother-in-law. I am thrilled that Sebastopol has adopted much more owner-friendly ADU requirements to help with our housing requirements.

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

My proven track record in starting and running a successful business gives me the perspective and knowledge to make logical, economically viable decisions. My portfolio of award winning projects demonstrates my capabilities in design. I have never had an administrative warning from CAB or any other legal concern with my license which demonstrates my technical capabilities and professional standard of care. My and my family's long-standing residency in Sebastopol and continued commitment and investment in / to the town. Additionally, I have been a board member since 2022 and have served as Vice Chair for my current term.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

I have recently joined the tree board sub-committee to rewrite the tree ordinance to bring it up-to-date and in compliance with state law. I think I bring a common-sense approach to items like this that come before the board and often speak in support of home owners and small business owners who are trying to do the right thing despite an often complicated (and expensive!) bureaucratic process. I would love for us to focus on simplifying our city processes to encourage more compliance and engagement from the public. In addition to the tree ordinance I would like to focus on updating the sign ordinance to better protect Sebastopol's unique and creative character and avoid a plethora of digital signage or signnage that is not in keeping with the town's existing character. Finally, I think we all should be looking for ways to future-proof the city to ensure viability for the next generation. This means looking not just at housing but at business opportunities for local business, infrastructure to support the needs to support a growing population, improving opportunities for smart density while ensuring a responsible environmental footprint.

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

I engage with public / community comments on projects regularly. I see these folks as the 'boots on the ground' for the project and their feedback / input as germane data points that would likely be difficult or impossible for us as the designers / committee to otherwise obtain. The ability to directly engage with those affected by the task is as important as how we engage with them. Respect, patience, and an inquisitive mind are fundamental. The beauty of our democratic process is that allows everyone an equal say which can, of course, be messy. The goal is to ensure we suss out the relevant information through a questioning dialog and leave everyone at least feeling heard (if not happy with the decision).

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

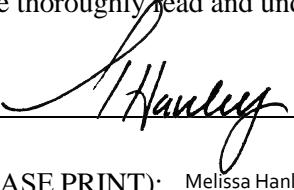
The same way that I deal with any conflict as it arises in the complex projects that I undertake as a professional. Disagreement is an opportunity for refinement in opinion and solutions. I strongly align with the concept of re-thinking to ensure that ideas are never statically held in the face of new information. When someone disagrees with me my first question is to ask 'how' they would approach the issue differently to provide for a tactical solution. 'Why' can be subjective but 'how' gets to the nuts and bolts of problem solving. I routinely work on complex projects involving tens of millions of dollars for major international corporations. Conflict is inevitable with so many individuals involved in high-stakes projects. The fact that 65% of our work on an annual basis is for repeat clients and the largest source of new business referral is from contractors and project managers who like working with us serves as a strong testament to my / our ability to find resolutions.

If someone is, however, obstructive then additional actions need to be taken including alerting the city manager and city counsel to the behavior that is causing undue conflict and obstructing to the process.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I see the role as an advocate for Sebastopol's current and future citizens and not one of personal taste or objectives. However, the role of advocate requires a future-forward lens and that might mean questioning existing policies / standards if they are not consistent with the future goals of the city.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Melissa Hanley

Date: November 6, 2025

City of Sebastopol – Design Review / Tree Board Application

Applicant: Blake McDowall

Category Applying For: C (Community Member)

Home Address: [REDACTED]

Home/Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Fax: N/A

Registered Voter in Sebastopol: Yes

Business License: No

Have you attended a meeting of this body?

I've attended City Council and community planning sessions and have reviewed Design Review Board meeting materials online to better understand the issues and design priorities shaping Sebastopol's future.

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

No.

Present Employer

Stripe, Inc. – Executive Recruiter

Analy High School – Head Cross Country & Track Coach

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office?

No.

Civic or Charitable Organizations

- Volunteer Lead, IPA 10k (Sebastopol)
- Race Organizer and Community Event Supporter (local running and fitness events)
- Active participant in neighborhood gatherings and community improvement efforts on Florence Avenue

What special interests, skills, and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I bring a blend of professional leadership, creative design sensibility, and deep community engagement. I've developed strong experience in native and sustainable garden design, with a particular interest in how plantings and natural materials can enhance the beauty, health, and identity of our town.

Professionally, I work as an executive recruiter, managing a high-performing team and helping organizations grow through thoughtful leadership. That experience has taught me how to listen carefully, balance perspectives, and find consensus—skills that are invaluable in civic decision-making.

As a resident of Florence Avenue, I'm proud to live on one of Sebastopol's most iconic streets, where creativity and community spirit define daily life. I want to contribute those same values—collaboration, creativity, and respect for place—to the city's design review process.

Education

College graduate; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo BA in Wine Business/Agricultural Business

Why would you like to become a member of this board or committee, and what specific objectives would you be working toward?

Sebastopol is a special community—creative, green, and deeply connected to its natural environment. I'd like to serve on the Design Review/Tree Board to help protect and enhance the character that makes this town unique, while thoughtfully guiding its evolution.

My goal is to ensure that future development reflects our small-town charm, environmental values, and artistic identity. I'm particularly interested in how landscape design, native plant use, and public spaces can foster community well-being.

I'd also like to help ensure that the city's design standards continue to balance beauty, function, and sustainability—so that as Sebastopol grows, it does so with integrity and care.

Potential Conflicts of Interest

None.

Would you be willing to abstain from voting in the event of a conflict of interest?

Yes.

How did you hear about this opening?

Melissa Hanley

Any other information that would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application?

I work every day in environments that demand collaboration, integrity, and good judgment. I believe those same qualities should guide local design and environmental decisions. My combination of professional discipline, creative outlook, and commitment to Sebastopol's long-term vitality make me eager to contribute to this important civic role.

What qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I'm qualified by my deep connection to the community, design awareness, and ability to lead with empathy and fairness. My professional background gives me strong analytical and communication skills, while my personal interests in landscape and neighborhood design help me approach projects with an eye toward both beauty and practicality.

As a coach and community volunteer, I've learned to bring people together across different perspectives. I want to help ensure Sebastopol's built and natural environments reflect the same care and cooperation that define its people.

Are there particular issues you think the board should concentrate on?

Yes. I'd like to see the board focus on:

- Encouraging native and climate-resilient landscaping;
- Preserving Sebastopol's tree canopy and heritage trees;
- Promoting context-sensitive design in both residential and commercial areas;
- Enhancing walkability and visual harmony in downtown development.

How should community comments be integrated into the board's decision-making process?

Community feedback should be central, not peripheral, to the board's decisions. I believe in listening first and finding common ground, especially when projects touch on shared spaces or historic character. Public input offers insight into the lived experience of residents, which helps ensure decisions are both technically sound and socially responsible.

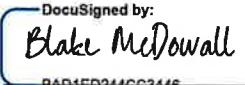
If another member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis, how would you handle it?

Respectfully and collaboratively. In my professional work, I often manage differing opinions among highly driven teams. I've learned that listening, asking clarifying questions, and seeking shared values nearly always leads to better outcomes. I'd approach any disagreement with patience, professionalism, and a focus on what's best for the community.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before the board that staff finds consistent with city policies, but you personally do not support it?

My duty as a board member would be to uphold City policy and process, even if my personal preferences differ. I would voice any concerns constructively and on the record, but ultimately, my role would be to apply objective standards and respect the guidance of city staff and Council decisions. Serving the community means prioritizing fairness, consistency, and trust in the process.

I have thoroughly read and understand all materials in this application.

DocuSigned by:
Signature: 
B4D1E9244C663446

Name: Blake McDowell

Date: 11/10/2025

The Board shall consist of five members and the City Council shall select, if possible, the following:

- A. Two persons, at least one of whom shall be a licensed architect and at least one of whom shall be a licensed landscape architect.
- B. One person who may be any of the following: architect, landscape architect, building designer, building contractor, landscape contractor.
- C. Two persons not in subsection A or B of this section.
- D. One alternate who may be in subsection A of this section or who possesses a particular expertise in the area of design, land use patterns, urban development or other related fields to serve at any meeting or on any matter in the absence of a Board member, or in the event a member has a conflict of interest.
- E. In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion. All terms of office shall terminate December 31st of the last year of the term of appointment.

Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)

- A
- B
- C
- D

Name: Dustin Deason

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Work Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

Facsimile Number: N/A

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?
 Yes No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the

public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? +10 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? off and on depending on jobs.

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

No

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes No

If so, when? _____

Present Employer: 

Job Title: CEO

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Board of Cloverdale Performing Arts center to help obtain and disperse CDC funds:
-2008

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

-CYO Coach
-Little League Coach

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

No

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

-Experienced Builder ~25 years

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

BA - Theatre Arts from Humboldt State University with a minor in Teach English as a Second Language

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

-Received thanks from the Sebastopol Rotary for donating the labor to construct the platform currently in Ives Park.

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

-To be a larger part of the community in an area where I hold some expertise.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: _____

It is possible that I could have a project that would come before the board.

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes No

How did you hear about this opening?

-From Christine Level

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

N/A

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I have a broad experience in construction over the last 25 years including lot/land development, entitlements, and working with governmental agencies.

I have also worked within the context of larger groups and have been subject to the Brown Act.

Also, I really love Sebastopol and would like to contribute to this City and its community.w

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

N/A

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

-Depends if there is any legal bearing to the comments, or potential value. It is important that community voices are heard and also important to follow the law.

I assume that there is already a process in place for this.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

-Disagreements make better decisions. I would fully expect there to be a wide range of opinions about projects. Fact finding and broadening the conversation can often lead to disagreements. I believe this is a healthy part of the process.

-If someone was unprofessional or disrespectful, I would talk directly to that person and/or talk to the chair. There is a big difference between "vehemently disagrees" and "unprofessional or disrespectful."

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

-My understanding of the position is that the Board makes recommendations.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Dustin Deason

Date: 12/10/2025